

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-13 and 27-33 stand rejected and 14-19 have been objected to. Claims 1, 14, 27, 29 and 32 have been amended and new Claims 34-44 have been added herein. Claims 20-26 have been cancelled herein. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the present amendments and following remarks. The above amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and to render all claims at issue patentably distinct over the references cited.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during a personal interview held on March 23, 2005. The claims and cited references were discussed. The Examiner was favorably inclined toward proposed Claims 14, 29, 32 and 35 (Claim 35 now being presented as 41 in the present amendment).

The Examiner has withdrawn Claims 20-26 due to a prior restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121. The prior election of Group I is hereby affirmed. This restriction is still traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested. It is further believed that the claims newly filed with this Amendment fall within the previously elected claim Group I.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-8, 13, 27, 28 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by McCardle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,239,401). This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is believed that the originally filed claims are patentably distinct over the cited references. Notwithstanding, Claim 1 has been amended by adding that the element is fed by use of gas pressure, and that at least a segment of the feed channel extends through the motion mechanism and is coaxially aligned with the chucking mechanism. The other amendments are merely to improve

grammar and should not restrict a full range of equivalents to the claim when interpreted. Support for the amendment can be found in Applicant's originally filed application in at least paragraph numbers [0021], [0030], [0031] and [0034], and in the originally filed Figure 2. In contrast, the claimed combination of elements, especially as amended, are not disclosed within the cited reference.

Furthermore, independent Claim 27 has been amended to state that a feeding channel extends through the actuators. Support for this amendment can be found in at least Applicant's originally filed Figure 2 as well as in the accompanying text in at least paragraph numbers [0030], [0034] and [0035]. In contrast, McCardle does not disclose the claimed combination of elements, especially as amended.

Furthermore, independent Claim 32 has been amended to state that the first and second mechanisms are electromagnetic and that the feed channel is located through at least one of the electromagnetic mechanisms. Support for this amendment is the same as for that made with regard to independent Claim 27. In contrast, the cited reference does not disclose the claimed combination of features, especially as amended. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over McCardle et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is believed that the originally filed claims are patentably distinct over the cited reference. The Examiner's assumptions with regard to functional equivalents is hereby challenged as lacking support, especially in light of the presently claimed combination of features. Notwithstanding, this rejection is deemed moot in light of the amendment to the base

independent claim. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejection be withdrawn.

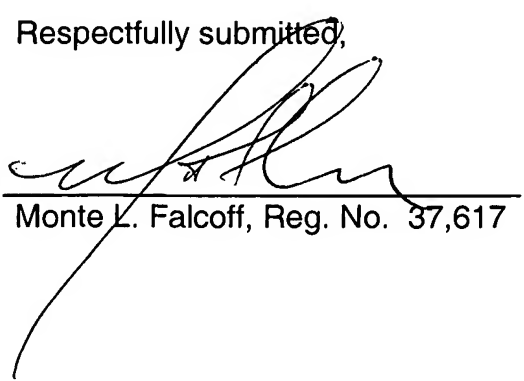
Claims 29-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as alleged being unpatentable over McCardle et al. in view of Torvinen (U.S. Patent No. 6,388,224). This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is believed that the originally filed claims are patentably distinct over the cited references. Notwithstanding, independent Claim 29 has been amended to state that the storage chamber is movable with the member. In contrast, the cited references do not teach, suggest or motivate the claimed combination of features, especially as amended. During the interview, the Examiner agreed, subject to further searching. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejection be withdrawn.

Finally, the objected to dependent Claim 14 has been placed in independent form by essentially including all of the elements of the base independent Claim 1 but with some minor grammatical revisions.

In view of the instant amendments, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that the Examiner pass the case to issue at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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